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Austria

Livestock and Products

Austria Confirms 4th Case of BSE 2006

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Report Highlights:

On Saturday May 13, Health Minister Rauch-Kallat confirmed the fourth case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Austria in a six-year-old cow from the northern province of Upper Austria.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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Unscheduled Report
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On Saturday May 13, Health Minister Rauch-Kallat confirmed the fourth case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Austria in a six-year-old cow from the northern province of Upper Austria.

The Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) confirmed that the six-year-old cow at a slaughterhouse in the provincial capital of Linz tested positive for BSE. The cow came from a farm in the Muehlviertel region, bordering Germany and the Czech Republic. The source of infection is unclear. All other 40 cattle from the farm have already been slaughtered, and the farm and slaughterhouse have been closed and disinfected. The samples of the slaughtered animals, including the offspring of the infected cow, were immediately tested at the AGES laboratory but did not test positive for BSE.

The meat and carcasses of the infected cow, as well as the meat and carcasses of all cattle slaughtered before and after the infected cow were secured and destroyed. The Austrian Health Ministry emphasized "there is no danger for Austrian consumers".

This is the fourth case of BSE in Austria. The first case was found in Lower Austria in December 2001, followed by two in 2005, in the western province of Vorarlberg in June, and in Salzburg, in October. Compared to other European countries Austria has a very low BSE rate (e.g. United Kingdom 184,000 BSE cases; Portugal 978; France 945; Spain 590). Austria has tested about 1.2 million cattle for BSE since early 2001.